

The Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois  
presents the

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# 2002 governor's family investment awards

**Nominate your company or organization  
for a Governor's Family Investment  
Award in the following categories:**

Child Care and Parental Programs

Elder/Dependent Care

Innovations, Insights and First Steps



Office of the Governor  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street  
Suite 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

The Governor's Family Investment Awards, presented by Governor George H. Ryan and First Lady Lura Lynn Ryan, will be given to employers who have shown extraordinary efforts or innovations that help employees balance their work and family responsibilities. Nominations will be judged in one of the three categories. Small businesses (350 employees or less) will be judged separately.

Employers who receive the Governor's Family Investment Awards provide leadership by example to other employers faced with the challenges of an evolving workplace. Exemplary nominations may be highlighted as "best practices" in family policies to other companies and organizations across the state.

The Governor's Family Investment Awards program is conducted by the Balancing Work and Family Working Group of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois. The nonpartisan Commission works with the private and public sectors to address key issues, raise awareness and recommend solutions to promote economic equity and independence for Illinois women. Governor Ryan's first Executive Order upon taking office in 1999 was to make the Commission a permanent body.

For more information, contact The Women's Commission at the Governor's Office, 312/814-5743.

# 2002 governor's family investment awards

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Honoring companies and organizations with family-friendly practices and programs.  
Application Deadline: April 30, 2002

# 2002 governor's family investment awards

# categories and considerations

## child care and parental programs

Employees with children become experts in juggling work responsibilities and the needs of their families. This category recognizes employers who encourage successful employees to also be successful parents. Examples of programs and policies for consideration include:

- On-site day care or referral services
- Family leave policies for new parents or during crucial developmental periods
- Policies and benefits for employees adopting children
- Flexible scheduling or work-at-home options
- Financial assistance, pre-tax deductions or vouchers for child care
- Workplace accommodations for nursing mothers

Please include information on how employees are encouraged to take advantage of the programs and the impact they have had on the work environment. If possible, include details on the tangible and intangible benefits to the employer, such as improved morale or decreased turnover.

## elder/dependent care

There are times when an employee may have to handle work responsibilities along with taking care of an elderly parent or another adult dependent with special needs. This category recognizes programs that assist employees in doing so. Examples of programs and policies for consideration include:

- Resource and referral services
- Available elder care facilities or resources
- Flexible work schedules

Please include a description of the programs and policies (both formal and informal) that help employees with elder/dependent care needs. If possible, describe the impact of the programs and results such as decreased absenteeism, improved retention or higher productivity.

## innovations, insights and first steps

More and more employers are creatively responding to employees’ needs with family-friendly workplace solutions. This category recognizes companies and organizations that take a leadership role in addressing workplace demands creatively with cutting-edge solutions. This is a category to highlight inventive policies or promotions. The Commission will also award companies making their first steps in developing more family-friendly solutions. Programs or initiatives for consideration include:

- Creative means of encouraging employee participation in the program or policy
- Sweeping changes made in the work environment
- Unique partnerships to provide employee services or resources
- First-time programs or policies that respond to employee needs and business challenges

GEORGE H. RYAN  
GOVERNOR

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FIRST LADY

HONORARY CHAIR  
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## nomination form

Award winners will be invited to a special awards ceremony with Governor Ryan and First Lady Lura Lynn Ryan. Please complete this form and include it with the nomination materials.

category \_\_\_\_\_

name \_\_\_\_\_ title \_\_\_\_\_

company/organization \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_ fax \_\_\_\_\_

company size \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

## nomination instructions

### select a category

You may apply to more than one category with different programs, if applicable. If you feel a program addresses more than one category, please note that.

### describe the program/policy

Write a brief description (one-page or less) of the family-friendly programs or policies implemented in your workplace. Include details on how the investment has paid off for your company in tangible or intangible terms.

### include supporting materials

If available, include materials such as brochures, promotional materials or media materials.

### complete nomination form

Attach this form to all nominations. If applying to multiple categories, photocopy the form and include it with each application.

### send in nomination

**All nominations are due by April 30, 2002.** Applications may be sent by:

#### mail

Governor's Commission on the  
Status of Women in Illinois  
Office of the Governor  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street  
Suite 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

#### fax

Governor's Commission on the  
Status of Women in Illinois  
312/814-3823 (fax)